

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 5, 2004.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, claims 1-10 and 18-27 were restricted by the Examiner and identified as invention I and claims 11-17 and 28-34 were restricted by the Examiner and identified as invention II. Applicant hereby elects to go forward with the prosecution of claims 1-10 and 18-27 identified as invention I. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claims 11-17 and 28-34 of invention II, without prejudice, in order to comply with the restriction requirement. Reexamination and reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made herein.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-10 and 18-27 define the subject invention over the prior art of record. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 3/3/2004

By



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Date: 3/3/2004


Nicole P Erquiaga

3/3/2004

Date